

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 13, 2012

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative
Robert Ladd, Precinct Representative
Pat Collins
Richard Desrosiers
Brian Lapham
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Diandra Sanphy

Absent

Joe Grzybowski
Victor DeMarco

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee gave self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer said she had seen Chief Silver and he said all are invited to the groundbreaking for the Winnacunnet Fire Station next Monday, December 17th, at 3:00 p.m. Groundbreaking for the Beach Fire Station was yesterday.

SAU 90

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent SAU 90, and Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator SAU 90. Ms. Bridle also introduced Art Gopalan, School Board Member, Dave O'Connor, Principal at Hampton Academy, Tim Lannon, Principal at Centre School, Dan Mitchell, Assistant Principal at Marston School, Carla Smith, Technology Director, and Mary Borg, Food Service Director.

Operating Budget

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$19,289,990 as the 2013-2014 Operating Budget for the Hampton School District.

Superintendent Murphy discussed the District's Mission Statement. The Statement is completely focused on children obtaining the skills they need to be successful.

Superintendent Murphy discussed the District's Goals and Objectives. The #1 priority is 100% proficiency in core subjects. The District shows improvement every year in achieving this. Giving children technology skills and training for teachers are also of prime importance. The District is also working towards a cable station dedicated to SAU 90 which will be used for learning purposes as well as sports and activities. Safety is an important concern. They continue to work on the maintenance plan. The District has been working with Emergency Management at the state level to insure compliance. The District is also working on a protocol in case of emergency. A complete review was done of the Food Service program and the goal is to make it self-sustaining. Recommendations have been implemented. A 3-5 year Strategic Plan is being developed.

Mr. Lunney discussed the operating budget. He said there are some items which are out of their control such as increases in retirement contributions. In Food Service there is an increase from \$55,000 to \$625,000. This can be confusing and look out of whack. However, this will be offset by \$600,000 in revenue (federal money). According to NH statute, the budget must show "gross appropriation" for all spending regardless of revenue source. This \$600,000 added to the budget does not affect the tax rate. There is a \$355,757 total increase in the area of Benefits. \$308,000 of this is related to retirement. Transportation costs have been reduced due to reduced Special Needs bussing.

Mr. Lunney discussed the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. Ms. Nickerson said this fund is starting to show its worth. Mr. Lunney said it is a safeguard because one student can add the need for enormous amounts of money that would have to be found. Ms. Sanphy noted that people need to understand that taking care of these students is mandated by law.

Ms. Nickerson noted that Special Ed is down to 134 students and asked if it was because these students are being addressed earlier. Superintendent Murphy said the preschool program is a powerful reason. Also, the training received by teachers plays a big part. Ms. Nickerson asked if regular classroom teachers receive training in dealing with Special Ed. Superintendent Murphy said all new teachers have an orientation on Special Ed and each one has a mentor for five years. There are also other training programs. Mr. Ladd asked if there was any follow-up on Special Ed students. Superintendent Murphy replied that the

NH Dept. of Education has a program that allows them to follow these children as far as college.

Reorganization was discussed. There will be a reduction of a Library Aide at Centre School and an addition of a Library Media Generalist at Centre School. There will be a reduction of one team at Hampton Academy, but this will be repurposed with STEM, World Language and a Math Interventionist. A fifth grade teacher will be added at Marston.

Mr. McFarlin asked about the line item of \$50,000 for merit pay. Superintendent Murphy said this would be for one-time awards for non-contract employees based on merit. Mr. McFarlin said he did not feel this was appropriate in a public school system. Chairman Latimer said she disagreed and felt it creates some competitiveness. Mr. Ladd said merit pay could cause some problems.

Amendment made by Mr. McFarlin, seconded by Ms. Sanphy, to remove Line Item Support Services 2290.50120.50 (\$50,000) for merit pay.

Ms. Nickerson said she agreed with Mr. McFarlin because everyone was receiving a 1.75% increase anyway. Many people in business are not receiving any increase.

Vote: 3 yes, 9 no (Bridle, Collins, Desrosiers, Lapham, Plouffe, Reniere, Ladd, Latimer, Woolsey). Amendment failed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion for the Operating Budget.

Vote: 10 yes, 2 no (McFarlin, Sanphy). Motion passed.

Estimated Revenues

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,919,199 as Estimated Revenues for the Hampton School District for 2013-2014.

Mr. Lunney discussed the revenue numbers.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Articles

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$300,000 for Long-Term Maintenance.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$75,000 for the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$859,000 for an addition to Centre School.

Mr. Lunney said the School Board has not yet voted on this article because they are still gathering information. They hope to come to the Budget Committee in January with a final article. Mr. Lunney gave an overview of the project.

Ms. Bridle withdrew her motion.

Mr. Lunney said the article regarding leasing of space for the town clock also has not been voted on due to need for more information.

Chairman Latimer thanked Superintendent Murphy and Mr. Lunney for their fine presentation.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2012.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Nickerson). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer said the next meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time Town and School money articles will be addressed.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary